

HOUSE RESOLUTION 180

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Carolyn Thompson of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Carolyn Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, she served with acumen and alacrity as County Commissioner of District Five for twenty-two years, becoming the second-longest serving squire and earning the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant, Mrs. Thompson is remembered for her caring attitude and her ability to represent the people of her district well; County Mayor Robert Dedman described her, saying, "Every question, every situation, she gave it a lot of thought and she voted her conscience. She loved her job, she loved her community and she represented her people;" and

WHEREAS, Carolyn Thompson recently spearheaded an effort to pass a resolution against TVA's proposal to bisect Cairo Bend with power lines; as Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee and a member of the Education Committee, she supported equitable pay for Sheriffs' Deputies and for moving forward on a new Lebanon High School; and

WHEREAS, when Sheriff Terry Ashe proposed a fourteen percent pay increase for his deputies in January of 2008, Mrs. Thompson helped get the plan to a vote after it was defeated in the Financial Management Committee; and

WHEREAS, Terry Ashe said Mrs. Thompson was a woman who always treated others with a respect and a kindness that pervaded every aspect of her life; and

WHEREAS, she was often the only other “yes” vote in the Education Committee on motions by Commissioner Annette Stafford, pushing for progress on Lebanon High School; Ms. Stafford said Mrs. Thompson encouraged her to get involved with politics and then served as a mentor and a mother figure for her; and

WHEREAS, in addition to standing as long-time County Commissioner, Mrs. Thompson worked as a Title Clerk for Cunningham Motors; and

WHEREAS, Carolyn Thompson was an active and devout member of Webb’s Baptist Chapel, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson enjoyed the loving companionship of her late husband, Homer Thompson, and was the proud mother and mother-in-law of Lori Upchurch and her husband, Don Upchurch; and

WHEREAS, she is preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Mattie Margaret White Gray, her husband, and her sister, Elsie Watson; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson will be sorely missed by her brother and his wife, Eugene and Claudette Gray; her sisters and their husbands, Evelyn Hailey and John Pruitte, Josephine and Paul Donald Thompson, and Ernestine and Henry Noell; as well as a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Carolyn Thompson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Carolyn Thompson, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Carolyn Thompson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.